

WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY	
Coll.	welTROmec
Call	pam
No.	WC715
	1904
	R 82e ₂

LEISHMAN DONOVANI FOUND IN KALA-AZAR

R. Ross

British Medical Journal, 1904, i.



22200060187

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH; RICHMOND DIVISION.—The next meeting of the above Division will be held on Wednesday, January 27th, in the Sun Hotel, Kingston, at 8.45 p.m., when Mr. D'Arcy Power, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S., will read a paper, Notes on an Ineffectual Treatment of Cancer, being a record of cases treated by the injection of Dr. Otto Schmidt's serum.—J. R. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., Honorary Secretary, 3, Ellerker Gate, Richmond.

PERTH BRANCH.—A Council meeting will be held in the Literary and Antiquarian Museum, Perth, on Friday, January 22nd, at 3.45 p.m. Business: Election of members; Medical Acts Amendment Bill; arrangements for clinical meeting.—WILLIAM A. TAYLOR, 10, Marshall Place, Perth, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH; CARDIFF DIVISION.—The next ordinary meeting of this Division will be held in the rooms of the Cardiff Medical Society, 131, Queen Street, on Thursday, January 21st, at 3.30 p.m. Certain resolutions on the proposed Medical Acts Amendment Bill will be submitted to the meeting, and the following papers will be read:—Dr. Walford, M.O.H., Cardiff: The Local Administration of the Midwives Act. Dr. A. Shoen: Brief Notes of a Case of Morphine Poisoning, with Recovery after Subcutaneous Injection of Atropine. Dr. T. Wallace: Notes on a Case of Appendicitis. Dr. Mitchell Stevens: Some Clinical Illustrations of the Difficulties in Diagnosis of Cancer of the Liver. It is suggested that members should cordially invite their medical friends to this and other general meetings of the Division. Tea and coffee will be provided.—EWEN J. MACLEAN, 12, Park Place, Cardiff, Honorary Divisional Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Museum, Babbacombe Road, Torquay, on Tuesday, January 19th, at 3.30 p.m., the President, Dr. W. T. Thompson, in the chair. The following communications are already promised: Dr. J. Harley Gough: Axis Traction in Midwifery. Mr. Paul Swain: Excision of Ascending Colon for Malignant Growths, with specimens. Dr. W. Gordon: Some Nervous Cases of Interest. Mr. C. Hamilton Whiteford: Anaesthetics. Dr. Bushnell: The Health Factor in Education. Gentlemen wishing to join the Association and Branch are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. YOUNG EALES, 1, Matlock Terrace, Torquay.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

LIVERPOOL.

Hospital Sunday.—The Stanley Hospital.—Co-operation of Clinical Hospitals.—Preservatives in Food.—A University Fellowship in Dermatology.

As has so frequently happened in former years, Hospital Sunday, which fell on January 10th, has been marked by very inclement weather, and there has been a notable falling off in the returns from the various churches. The question of changing the date of this annual event has long been under consideration, but the difficulty in choosing a more suitable date has so far proved insurmountable. It is clear that to secure a probability of milder weather the date would have to be postponed at least three months, and that if that were done the hospitals would be out of pocket on the year the change was made to the extent of one-fourth at least of the amount collected. Further, in the spring and summer a considerable proportion of the more wealthy donors to the fund spend their Sundays away from Liverpool. On the whole, it is doubtful whether the hospitals would materially benefit from a change in the date even if the numerous places of worship could agree upon some other Sunday in the year.

The Stanley Hospital, after a long and heroic struggle in the face of much neglect and consequent scarcity of funds, has at length equipped 106 beds for permanent occupation, and will consequently be recognized as a field for clinical instruction by the University of Liverpool and by other licensing bodies. The hospital, which was founded in 1868, owed its inception chiefly to the exertions of two medical practitioners whose friendship was almost proverbial, the late Dr. D. D. Costine and the late Mr. E. M. Sheldon, the staff of the institution has always taken a high position, and it is a notable fact that the three physicians now on the staff of the Royal Infirmary, and two of the surgeons, began their hospital career at the Stanley Hospital. The Royal Southern Hospital Staff has also to a large extent been recruited from the same source. There is no reason to fear that clinical teaching in Liverpool will deteriorate in consequence of this enlargement of the field of clinical work.

The Royal Southern, the Northern, and the Stanley Hospitals are endeavouring to co-operate so as to enable students to divide their attendance among them. They all labour under the disadvantage of being at a considerable distance from the University, a disadvantage which has, however, become less since the completion of the electric tramway service in the city.

For some years past the question of the employment of preservatives in decomposable foods exposed for sale has received much attention in Liverpool. The health authorities have endeavoured to prohibit their use altogether, and several prosecutions have taken place. The medical evidence called showed a marked difference of opinion on the subject, eminent practitioners called for the prosecution maintaining that preservatives, more particularly salicylic acid, were unnecessary and injurious even in small amounts, while the medical witnesses for the defence maintained that in the minute quantities in which they occurred in manufactured foods, such as temperance drinks, they could have no appreciable effect on the economy, and that unless some such means were employed the manufacture of such articles must cease. The last two summonses for selling fruit juices containing salicylic acid were dismissed. Quite recently a summons was taken out against a dealer for selling lime juice cordial containing 7 gr. of salicylic acid per pint, but before the case came to a hearing the prosecution was withdrawn. It is noteworthy that no prosecutions have been instituted against the use of sulphurous acid in the preservation of liquids such as lime juice, although its employment is pretty common.

Dr. Stopford Taylor has instituted a Fellowship in Dermatology in the University. The Fellow will be required to devote a stated amount of time to research in the Thompson-Yates Laboratories, and also to do clinical work in hospital.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LEISHMANIA DONOVANI FOUND IN KALA-AZAR.

SIR,—With reference to my former articles¹ on the newly-discovered parasite *Leishmania donovani*,¹ those interested in tropical medicine will doubtless be very glad to hear that a telegram has been received from Dr. C. A. Bentley, of Assam, informing me that he has found the organisms in the spleen in kala-azar during life, thus verifying previous conjectures.

I may add that I have also heard from Captain Donovan to the effect that he remains unable to detect the organisms in the peripheral blood, where we should expect to find them if they were intracorporeal.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Jan. 11th.

R. ROSS.

THE REGIUS PROFESSORSHIP IN OXFORD.

SIR,—Those interested in the appointment of the Regius Professor in Oxford will learn with interest that the recommendation made to the Crown through the Vice-Chancellor was fully discussed in the University. It was unfortunate that the discussion should have taken place during the Christmas vacation and a name sent in in the short space of time that elapsed between the end of term and the New Year. It was unfortunate, too, that none of the Oxford medical graduates attached to the London or provincial schools of medicine were not approached. I think they might reasonably have expected that their opinion should have been sought, for they, after all, have as much, if not more, to do with the education of students than the teachers or professors in Oxford.

The attitude, Sir, you take in the matter is evidently in agreement with the Oxford men who have circulated a letter recently in justification of their action, and in disagreement with those present at the meeting held in London on January 5th. May I point out, in answer to your leaderette, that there is no reason why the Regius Professor should do nothing, or, as you put it, be a merely administrative person? In fact, Messrs. Gotch, Haldane, and Thomson clearly show in their letter that he has a great deal to do. This is not quite what these gentlemen meant us to understand from their letter, which reads more like an apology for the Professor doing nothing than a justification of their action in suggesting that he should give his attention solely to pathology. The University has not yet declared by statute that the Professor shall lecture on that particular subject. These gentlemen quite ignore the important work the Regius Professor has to do for the profession of medicine generally. This is not the important part of his duties, for the Chair is endowed—it may be inadequately—in order that the holder may be able to give his time to organization of medical education and the welfare of the profession generally. The climax of this letter—namely, that because he has so

